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PATENT

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3/25/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael Lynn Hinds

Examiner: Roger L. Pang

Serial No.: 09/881,115

Filed: 06/14/2001

For: MAGNETIC PROTECTION OF HYDRAULIC SEAL

Group Art Unit 3681

(Atty. Ref. No. 15745-US)

Moline, IL 61265

12 March 2003

Request for Reconsideration

The Honorable Commissioner

of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated, 01/09/2003, please reconsider the above-identified application for the reasons stated below.

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

Claims 1 and 9 are under a rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuya et al., with the Examiner considering that Mitsuya et al. teach the claimed magnetic contaminant collector in combination with a known shaft and gear box combination wherein the shaft projects through a seal provided in a low section in a bottom wall of the gear box, with the contaminant collector being above the seal. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is in error as Mitsuya et al. are not interested in contaminant collection, and in any event, does not teach what is being claimed.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, Mitsuya et al. disclose a ferro fluidic seal including a magnet 3, in the form of a cylindrical ring, having flat ferro magnetic yoke rings 4a and 4b respectively located at opposite ends of the magnet 3. The flat rings

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